

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 were pending in the application. Claims 7-9 have been withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3 and 6 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Thus, claims 3 and 6 are submitted for reconsideration at this time.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of foreign priority documentation and for the continued examination of the present case.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claim 4 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2 is respectfully solicited.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3 and 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,793,136 ("Redzic" hereafter) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,597,646 ("Lawrenson" hereafter). Claims 1, 2, and 5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from newly independent claim 6. No new matter has been introduced. Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 6 as indicated below.

The Office Action asserts that Redzic teaches an electric rotating machine, comprising: a middle core (40), an outer core (32) disposed outside the middle core, and which rotates relative to the middle core, and an inner core (20) disposed inside the middle core, and which rotates relative to the middle core. The Office Action acknowledges, however, that Redzic fails to disclose or suggest that the middle core comprises plural plates stacked in an axial direction and joined to a first fixing member by a connecting member.

The Office Action asserts, however, that Lawrenson discloses plural plates stacked in an axial direction joined to a first fixing member (57) by a connecting member (52), and that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the middle core of Redzic to accommodate the core with plates as taught by Lawrenson in order to provide the core with ease of assembly. Regarding claim 6 specifically, the Office Action asserts that Lawrenson teaches the core is formed by a plural split core (3), the connecting member is a bolt (52), and a space (53) through which the bolt passes is formed between adjacent split cores. Applicant respectfully traverses the assertion that Lawrenson teaches that a space through which the bolt passes is formed between adjacent split cores.

In the motor of Lawrenson, the rotor core (2) is formed by four segments (3) of magnetic material (col. 2, lines 53-55). The segments are magnetically isolated from each other and there is a large gap 4 between adjacent segments along the lines of the direct axes 7 of the rotor (col. 2, lines 58-61). All of the stampings have holes 51 through which axial bolts 52 extend and these bolts pass through matching holes 53 in nonmagnetic stainless steel end plates 59 after which they are secured by nuts 54 so that the set of four stacks of stampings are firmly held between end plates 59 (col. 5, lines 56-61). Neither gap 4 nor matching holes 53, however, is a space through which the bolt passes that is formed between adjacent split cores.

Specifically, bolts 52 of Lawrenson do not pass through gap 4, as gap 4 is formed between adjacent segments along the lines of the direct axes 7 of the rotor (i.e., not between adjacent stacked segments). Furthermore, matching holes 53 of Lawrenson are formed in nonmagnetic stainless steel *end plates* 59 (i.e., not between adjacent stacked segments), and are thus not *between adjacent split cores* as claimed. Thus, Lawrenson fails to disclose or suggest a space through which the bolt passes that is formed between adjacent split cores as claimed.

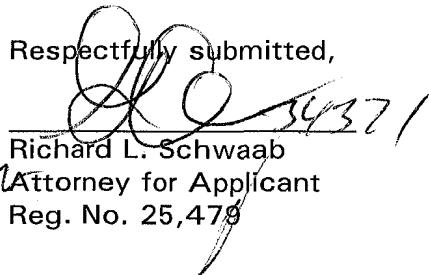
In view of the deficiencies in Lawrenson, the proposed combination of Redzic and Lawrenson fails to disclose or suggest all of the claimed limitations. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully solicited for at least this reason.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

3. (Amended) An electric rotating machine as defined in Claim [1] 6,
wherein the plates are ring-shaped thin plates.

6. (Amended) An electric rotating machine [as defined in Claim 5],
comprising:

a middle core comprising plural plates stacked in an axial direction;
an outer core disposed outside the middle core, and which rotates relative to the
middle core; and

an inner core disposed inside the middle core, and which rotates relative to the
middle core,

wherein the plural plates are joined to a first fixing member by a connecting
member,

wherein the middle core is a stator core, and the outer core and inner core are
rotor cores, and

wherein the stator core is formed by a plural split core, the connecting member is
a bolt, and a space through which the bolt passes is formed between adjacent split
cores.